

# Leader Guide

## What Could be Written About You?

Winter 2026 | Week 4

Message Date 2/1/2026

### THE GOAL

The goal this week is to deepen our understanding that following Jesus is not about blending old habits with new faith, but about transformation through surrender. Using Levi's calling in Luke 5, our groups will explore how Jesus fulfills the old and introduces something truly new. By the end of the discussion, we should be able to identify what they may still be holding onto from their old life, recognize where Jesus is inviting change, and be challenged to intentionally make room for the new work God wants to do in them.

### MY STORY

- 1) If someone followed you around this week and wrote a short bio about your life, what's one funny or surprising detail they'd include?
- 2) What's something "old school" you still love even though everyone else seems to have moved on?

### QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

#### Luke 5:27–39 (NLT)

<sup>27</sup>Later, as Jesus left the town, he saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him.

<sup>28</sup>So Levi got up, left everything, and followed him.

<sup>29</sup>Later, Levi held a banquet in his home with Jesus as the guest of honor. Many of Levi's fellow tax collectors and other guests also ate with them.

<sup>30</sup>But the Pharisees and their teachers of religious law complained bitterly to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with such scum?"

<sup>31</sup>Jesus answered them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do."

<sup>32</sup>*I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.*"

<sup>33</sup>*One day some people said to Jesus, "John the Baptist's disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?"*

<sup>34</sup>*Jesus responded, "Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. <sup>35</sup>But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast."*

<sup>36</sup>*Then Jesus gave them this illustration: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn't even match the old garment.*

<sup>37</sup>*"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. <sup>38</sup>New wine must be stored in new wineskins. <sup>39</sup>But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. 'The old is just fine,' they say."*

- 4) What stands out to you about Jesus calling Levi, knowing exactly who he was and what he represented?

Jesus knew Levi's reputation and still called him. Levi wasn't misunderstood—he was openly broken. This shows me that Jesus calls us based on grace, not our past. He sees the heart of a person, and it also teaches me about His love for the person not the reputation.

- 5) Why do you think Levi was willing to leave everything behind so quickly?

Levi already knew where his old life led. When Jesus offered something better, Levi didn't hesitate because he believed what he was leaving behind wasn't worth keeping. There was something about Jesus that was so compelling that he had to go see for himself.

- 6) What does Levi hosting a banquet for Jesus reveal about the change in his life? He wanted to celebrate what Jesus had done in his life, and he immediately used his influence to introduce others to Jesus. Following Christ reshaped his priorities and relationships right away.

- 7) Why were the Pharisees offended by Jesus eating with sinners?

They believed holiness meant separation, while Jesus showed holiness moves toward broken people to bring healing.

- 8) What does Jesus mean by saying sick people need a doctor?

Transformation begins when we admit our need. Those who think they're fine rarely experience real change. If you're not sick why would you go to the Doctor?

- 9) What is Jesus teaching through the wineskins illustration?

Jesus isn't interested in blending the old with the new. New life requires flexibility and surrender. It also teaches us about our comfort level with old things.

10) Why is it tempting to say, "The old is just fine"?

The old feels familiar and safe, even when it limits us. Trusting God with something new requires faith. Also, people really don't like change. In my experience change is hard for a lot of people, but that's what Jesus is challenging the religious elite with.

11) How do time and focus relate to experiencing God's peace?

What we think about and practice shapes who we become. Peace follows when our attention aligns with God's truth.

12) What might God be inviting you to release to make room for something new?

This will be a very personal answer. For me (Justin) it's about accepting life on life's terms right now. A lot has happened to me recently that I would really prefer to be a different way, but it's not and it's a new season. I need to let go of the old and embrace the new.

## CHAIR TIME TOOLS



Reflection Questions for Chair Time: think about the following questions and pray through them with Jesus.

- 1) Is there an old habit, mindset, or pattern God may be asking you to release?
- 2) What new work might Jesus be inviting you into right now?
- 3) When will you intentionally schedule time this week to engage with Jesus?